



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC STAFF FILES COMPLAINT AGAINST MISSOURI GAS ENERGY

JEFFERSON CITY—The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission has filed a complaint against Missouri Gas Energy (MGE) alleging a violation of Commission rules that contributed to a natural gas explosion and fire in Blue Springs last January. The explosion and flash fire occurred in a vacant single family residence at 1706 SW Smith Street on January 8, 2007. The structure sustained minor damage; no injuries were reported.

The PSC Staff believes the explosion and fire occurred when a contractor working for MGE inadvertently introduced natural gas into an abandoned natural gas line. Infrasource is a contractor MGE used for work in the area.

“The probable cause for the introduction of natural gas into the abandoned line was the failure of Infrasource to follow MGE’s construction standards which require use of pressure gauges to identify in-service lines to ensure connection to the correct main. If Infrasource had known the line was not pressurized (and likely not in service) they would not have made the connection to the abandoned line, and the explosion would not have occurred,” the PSC Staff report said.

MGE is responsible for ensuring work performed by its contractors complies with the regulations.

According to the PSC Staff report, when natural gas went into the abandoned line, it migrated into the basement of the residence at 1706 SW Smith Street where it ignited. The PSC Staff report states that prior to the explosion, Infrasource was working to replace natural gas lines at the intersection of 18th and Walnut Streets.

The Staff complaint case seeks Commission authorization to go to circuit court to seek penalties against MGE.

MGE is expected to file an answer to Staff’s complaint within 30 days.